## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-10.  (Canceled)

11.  (Previously presented)       A method for defining a Rule-Based Markup Language ("RBML") to describe a set of rules for managing a first network among a plurality of networks, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

creating one or more RBML documents for storing the set of rules, wherein the one or more RBML documents include one or more tags defining one or more rule elements, and wherein:

a RBML document storing a symptom-event rule from the set of rules includes:

an event tag identifying a particular event occurring on the network; and

a symptom tag identifying a symptom as a generalized abstraction of the particular event; and

a RBML document storing a problem-diagnosis rule from the set of rules includes:

a problem-definition tag describing a problem; and

a correlation tag identifying a correlation between one or more symptoms, wherein the one or more symptoms are defined in one or more symptom tags that include one or more pre-defined indicators associated with the one or more symptoms; and

wherein each of the RBML documents comprises a profile block, event block, summary block, corrective action block, and match block, wherein the profile block identifies network profile elements to which a rule applies, wherein an event block defines which events published by a target device may constitute a recognized symptom, wherein the summary block comprises metadata defining what services or systems are entitled to use or execute a rule; wherein the corrective action block defines one or more actions that can and should be taken to correct a problem that has been determined to exist; wherein the match block comprises one or more

match statements that may be applied to raw data to either parse or make a
determination about the data;

generating, from information stored in one or more tags of the one or more RBML
documents, one or more sequences of instructions, which instructions, when
executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out
the steps of:

collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms,
wherein collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes
monitoring the network for one or more network events identified in the
symptom-event rule; and

detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes
applying the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second
network, separate from the first network; and

distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents
storing the particular rule.

12.     (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the step of detecting a problem
within the network further comprises the steps of:

comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators associated
with the one or more symptoms to determine whether a particular symptom exists
in the symptom-related data;

repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms identified in
the correlation tag of the RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule;
and

only if all symptoms identified in the correlation tag exist, determining that the problem
identified in the problem-definition tag is detected.

13.     (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein the RBML document storing the
symptom-event rule further includes:

a profile tag identifying a particular network device; and

a command tag identifying a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection command, when executed on the particular network device, returns symptom-related data associated with the particular network device.

14. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 11, wherein:

the step of creating one or more RBML documents further includes creating a RBML document for storing a problem-correction rule defining one or more corrective actions capable of correcting the problem within the network; and

the step of generating instructions includes generating one or more sequences of instructions, which instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of recommending to a user the one or more corrective actions defined in the RBML document storing the problem-correction rule.

15.-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for defining a Rule-Based Markup Language ("RBML") to describe a set of rules for managing a first network among a plurality of networks, which instructions, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the steps of:

creating one or more RBML documents for storing the set of rules, wherein the one or more RBML documents include one or more tags defining one or more rule elements, and wherein:

a RBML document storing a symptom-event rule from the set of rules includes:

an event tag identifying a particular event occurring on the network; and

a symptom tag identifying a symptom as a generalized abstraction of the particular event; and

a RBML document storing a problem-diagnosis rule from the set of rules includes:

a problem-definition tag describing a problem; and

a correlation tag identifying a correlation between one or more symptoms,

wherein the one or more symptoms are defined in one or more

symptom tags that include one or more pre-defined indicators

associated with the one or more symptoms; and

wherein each of the RBML documents comprises a profile block, event block, summary

block, corrective action block, and match block, wherein the profile block

identifies network profile elements to which a rule applies, wherein an event

block defines which events published by a target device may constitute a

recognized symptom, wherein the summary block comprises metadata defining

what services or systems are entitled to use or execute a rule; wherein the

corrective action block defines one or more actions that can and should be taken

to correct a problem that has been determined to exist; wherein the match block

comprises one or more match statements that may be applied to raw data to either

parse or make a determination about the data;

generating, from information stored in one or more tags of the one or more RBML

documents, one or more sequences of instructions, which instructions, when

executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out

the steps of:

collecting and storing symptom-related data about one or more symptoms,

wherein collecting and storing the symptom-related data includes

monitoring the network for one or more network events identified in the

symptom-event rule; and

detecting a problem within the network, wherein detecting the problem includes

applying the problem-diagnosis rule to the symptom-related data;

receiving a request from a user to employ a particular rule in managing a second

network, separate from the first network; and

distributing to a device on the second network the one or more RBML documents

storing the particular rule.

33.  (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 32,

wherein the instructions for detecting a problem within the network further comprise

instructions for carrying out the steps of:

comparing the symptom-related data to the one or more pre-defined indicators associated
with the one or more symptoms to determine whether a particular symptom exists
in the symptom-related data;

repeating the step of comparing the symptom-related data for all symptoms identified in
the correlation tag of the RBML document storing the problem-diagnosis rule;
and

only if all symptoms identified in the correlation tag exist, determining that the problem
identified in the problem-definition tag is detected.

34.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 32,
wherein the RBML document storing the symptom-event rule further includes:

a profile tag identifying a particular network device; and

a command tag identifying a data-collection command, wherein the data-collection
command, when executed on the particular network device, returns symptom-
related data associated with the particular network device.

35.   (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in Claim 32,
wherein:

the instructions for creating one or more RBML documents further comprise instructions
for carrying out the step of creating a RBML document for storing a problem-
correction rule defining one or more corrective actions capable of correcting the
problem within the network; and

the instructions for generating one or more sequences of instructions, by using
information stored in one or more tags of one or more RBML documents, further
comprise instructions for carrying out the step of recommending to a user the one
or more corrective actions defined in the RBML document storing the problem-
correction rule.